

**PART 7501—SUPPLEMENTAL STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301, 7301, 7351, 7353; 5 U.S.C. App. (Ethics in Government Act of 1978); E.O. 12674, 54 FR 15159, 3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 215, as modified by E.O. 12731, 55 FR 42547, 3 CFR, 1990 Comp., p. 306; 5 CFR 2635.105, 2635.203(a), 2635.403(a), 2635.803, 2635.807.

SOURCE: 61 FR 36248, July 9, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 7501.101 Purpose.**

In accordance with 5 CFR 2635.105, the regulations in this part apply to employees of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD or Department) and supplement the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch contained in 5 CFR part 2635. Employees are required to comply with 5 CFR part 2635, this part, and any additional rules of conduct that the Department is authorized to issue.

**§ 7501.102 Definitions.**

For purposes of this part, and otherwise as indicated, the following definitions shall apply:

*Affiliate* means any entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another entity.

*Agency designee*, as used also in 5 CFR part 2635, means the Associate General Counsel for Human Resources Law, the Assistant General Counsel, Ethics Law Division, and the HUD Field Office Assistant General Counsels; the Inspector General, for employees assigned to the Office of the Inspector General; and the General Counsel, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, for employees assigned to the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

*Agency ethics official*, as used also in 5 CFR part 2635, means the agency designees as specified above.

*Assistance* means any contract, grant, loan, subsidy, guarantee, cooperative agreement or other financial assistance under a program administered by the HUD Secretary, and includes "assistance" awarded by the Department that is competitively redistributed to a second tier of applicants or awardees. The term does not include single family mortgage insurance provided under a program administered by the Secretary.

*Designated Agency Ethics Official* (DAEO) means the General Counsel of HUD or the Deputy General Counsel (Operations) in the absence of the General Counsel.

*Employment* means any compensated or uncompensated form of non-Federal employment or business relationship, including self employment, involving the provision of personal services by the employee. It includes, but is not limited to, personal services as an officer, director, employee, agent, attorney, consultant, contractor, general partner, trustee, teacher or speaker. It includes writing when done under an arrangement with another person for production or publication of the written product.

*Security* means all interests in debt or equity instruments. The term includes, without limitation, secured and unsecured bonds, debentures, notes, securitized assets and commercial paper including loans securitized by mortgages or deeds of trust and securities backed by such instruments, as well as all types of preferred and common stock. The term encompasses current and contingent ownership interests including any beneficial or legal interest derived from a trust. Such interest includes any right to acquire or dispose of any long or short position in such securities and also includes, without limit, interests convertible into such securities, as well as options, rights, warrants, puts, calls and straddles with respect thereto. The term shall not, however, be construed to include deposit accounts.

**§ 7501.103 Waivers.**

The Designated Agency Ethics Official may waive any provision of this part upon finding that the waiver will not result in conduct inconsistent with 5 CFR part 2635 or otherwise prohibited by law and that application of the provision is not necessary to ensure public confidence in the impartiality and objectivity with which the Department's programs are administered. Each waiver shall be in writing and supported by a statement of the facts and findings upon which it is based and may impose appropriate conditions, such as requiring the employee's execution of a written disqualification statement.

**§ 7501.104 Prohibited financial interests.**

(a) *General requirement.* This section applies to all HUD employees except special Government employees who are not "covered employees" as defined in § 7501.106(b)(1) of this part. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, an employee, or an employee's spouse or minor child, shall not directly or indirectly receive, acquire or own:

(1) Securities issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) or securities collateralized by FNMA securities;

(2) Securities issued by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC) or securities collateralized by FHLMC securities;

(3) Federal Housing Administration debentures or certificates of claim;

(4) Stock or another financial interest in a multifamily project or single family dwelling, cooperative unit, or condominium unit, which is owned or subsidized by the Department, or which is subject to a note or mortgage or other security interest insured by the Department, except to the extent that the stock or other interest represents the employee's principal residence. Employees who wish to purchase a Department-held property as a principal residence must adhere to the procedures established by the Assistant Secretary for Housing for the administration of the property disposition program set forth in HUD Handbook 4310.5;

(5) Any Department subsidy provided pursuant to Section 8 of the United

States Housing Act of 1937, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to or on behalf of a tenant of property owned by the employee. However, an employee may receive such a subsidy when:

(i) The employee acquires without specific intent, as through gift or inheritance, a property which at the time of acquisition has a tenant receiving such a subsidy, but only as long as that tenant continues to reside in the property;

(ii) An incumbent tenant who has not previously received such a subsidy becomes the beneficiary thereof, but only if there is no increase in that tenant's rent upon the commencement of subsidy payments other than normal annual adjustments; or

(iii) The tenant is the parent, child, grandchild, or sibling of the employee, but only if there is no increase in that tenant's rent upon the commencement of subsidy payments other than normal annual adjustments; or

(6) Any direct creditor interest in a mortgage insured by the Department.

(b) *Exception to prohibition for certain interests.* Nothing in this section prohibits an employee, or the spouse or minor child of an employee, from acquiring, owning, or controlling:

(1) An interest in a publicly traded or publicly available investment fund which, in its prospectus, does not indicate the objective or practice of concentrating its investments in residential mortgages or securities backed by residential mortgages, except those of the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), and the employee neither exercises control nor has the ability to exercise control over the financial interests held in the fund;

(2) A limited partnership interest in a partnership which has at least 5,000 partnership interests, and no more than 25% of the gross value of the partnership interest constitutes projects subject to HUD held or insured mortgages or projects currently receiving the benefit of HUD subsidies; or

(3) Mortgage insurance provided pursuant to section 203 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709) on the employee's principal residence and any one other single family residence.

(c) *Reporting and divestiture.* An employee must report, in writing, to the